

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. – 78. (Cancelled)

79. (Currently Amended) A ~~payment~~ method for issuing and redeeming payment vouchers comprising:

offering prepaid vouchers for a plurality of subscriber retailers to a customer, said prepaid vouchers exchangeable by said customer for value from at least one of said subscriber retailers;

receiving an order from [[a]] said customer for [[a]] said prepaid voucher; said order specifying a selected one of [[a]] said plurality of subscriber retailers and including a payment from said customer;

~~said pre-paid voucher including voucher information identifying the selected subscriber retailer;~~

~~receiving payment from said customer for said prepaid voucher via a computer network;~~
issuing generating said prepaid voucher in response to receiving said order and said payment from said customer, said prepaid voucher including voucher information identifying said selected one of said plurality of subscriber retailers;

generating a token associated with said prepaid voucher;

associating said token with said prepaid voucher in a database;

receiving a request from one of said plurality of subscriber retailers for validation of said issued prepaid voucher in response to presentment of said issued prepaid voucher from said customer to said one of said plurality of subscriber retailers from a redemption point, said request including said token; [[and]]

comparing said token in said [[the]] request against said [[the]] token associated with said [[the]] prepaid voucher in said [[the]] database; and

validating said prepaid voucher in response to a positive result of said comparison.

80. (Currently Amended) The payment method of claim 79, further comprising:
communicating said ~~providing a~~ validation of said prepaid voucher to said one of said plurality of subscriber retailers ~~redemption point~~ in response to said request and said [[a]] positive result of said comparison.
81. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 80, further comprising:
receiving a notification of use of said prepaid voucher from said one of said plurality of subscriber retailers ~~redemption point~~ in response to ~~providing~~ communicating said validation;
and
indicating a redemption of said prepaid voucher in said database in response to receiving said notification of use.
82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:
said order being received from said customer via [[the]] a computer network.
83. (Canceled)
84. (Canceled)
85. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 79, wherein said ~~generating~~ issuing said prepaid voucher includes providing fields of an image of a retail gift voucher including voucher information identifying said selected subscriber.
86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:
delivering said prepaid voucher to a recipient via postal service.
87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:
delivering said prepaid voucher to said recipient via electronic mail.

88. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said token comprises a randomly generated token.

89. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce payment system comprising:

means for offering a prepaid goods/services item for a plurality of subscriber retailers to a customer, said prepaid goods/services item exchangeable by said customer for value from at least one of said subscriber retailers;

means for receiving an order from [[a]] said customer for [[a]] said prepaid goods/services item[[:]], said order specifying a selected one of [[a]] said plurality of subscriber retailers and including a payment from said customer;

means for receiving said payment from said customer for said prepaid goods/services item ~~voucher~~ via a computer network;

means for ~~issuing generating~~ said prepaid goods/services item ~~voucher~~ in response to receiving said order and said payment from said customer, [[:]] said pre-paid goods/services item ~~voucher~~ including ~~voucher~~ information identifying [[the]] said selected one of said plurality of subscriber retailers;

means for generating a token associated with said prepaid goods/services item;

means for associating said token with said prepaid goods/services item in a database;

means for receiving a request from one of said plurality of subscriber retailers for validation of said prepaid goods/services item in response to presentment of said prepaid goods/service item from said customer to said one of said plurality of subscriber retailers ~~from a redemption point~~, said request including said token; [[and]]

means for comparing said token in [[the]] said request against [[the]] said token associated with [[the]] said prepaid goods/services item ~~voucher~~ in [[the]] said database; and

means for validating said prepaid goods/services item in response to said request.

90. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce payment system comprising:

a computer network in communication with at least one database storing a list of a plurality of subscriber retailers;

a website in communication with said network, said website configured to offer a prepaid voucher for said plurality of subscriber retailers to customers, said website configured to receive a customer order for a prepaid voucher from at least one of ~~[[a]]~~ said plurality of subscriber~~[[ing]]~~ retailers and to receive payment from said customer for said prepaid voucher, said prepaid voucher being exchangeable by said customer for value from at least one said plurality of subscriber retailers;

said website in communication ~~[[at]]~~ with said at least one database storing ~~[[a]]~~ said list of said plurality of said subscriber~~[[ing]]~~ retailers, ~~wherein the said~~ customer order ~~specifies~~ specifying a selected one of ~~[[the]]~~ said plurality of said subscriber~~[[ing]]~~ retailers;

said website configured to cause ~~issuance generation~~ of said prepaid voucher in response to said customer order and said payment, and storage of information descriptive of said prepaid voucher in association with a token in said at least one database, ~~wherein~~ said prepaid voucher including~~[[es]]~~ voucher information identifying ~~[[the]]~~ said selected one of said plurality of subscriber ~~retailer(s)~~ retailers; and

a redemption system configured to receive a request from one of said plurality of subscriber retailers for validation of said prepaid voucher in response to presentment of said prepaid from said customer to said one or said plurality of subscriber retailers, and configure to communicate an indication of whether said voucher has been redeemed to ~~a subscribing retailer~~ said one or said plurality of subscriber retailers in said list of subscriber~~[[ing]]~~ retailers in response to said request ~~an inquiry from said subscribing retailer, said inquiry including said token.~~

91. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 90, further comprising:

said redemption system configured to indicate redemption of said prepaid voucher in response to said request ~~inquiry~~.

92. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 91, further comprising:
said ~~inquiry request~~ descriptive of a partial use of said prepaid voucher; and
said redemption system configured to indicate said partial use of said voucher in response
to said ~~inquiry request~~.
93. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, further comprising:
a payment system in communication with said network, said payment system configured
to approve said payment.
94. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 90, further comprising:
said at least one database including voucher image data for said prepaid voucher; and
said website configured to cause generation of a voucher image associated with said
prepaid voucher in accordance with said voucher image data.
95. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 94[[5]], further comprising:
said voucher image is associated with each of said plurality of subscribing retailers.
96. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 95, further comprising:
said website configured to receive a beneficiary designation for said prepaid voucher
from said customer and to cause delivery of said prepaid voucher to said beneficiary.